

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09145 160918Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 160750Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6481

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9145

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS YS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF AMCITS HELD BY PDRY--TORHAN AND KOPP

1. THERE IS ONE ASPECT ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN HANDLING OF TORHAN AND KOPP'S RELEASE THAT IS POTENTIALLY AWKWARD AND THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT. IN TURNING THE TWO OVER TO ME, MARWAN SPECIFICALLY AND EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT THE MFA (READ FAHMY) HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, THAT THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT AND THAT THE SUBJECT SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH MFA PERSONNEL. IT IS PURELY A PRESIDENCY MATTER.

2. SINCE I HAD NOT EARLIER DISCUSSED WITH FAHMY ANY OF MY PERTINENT EXCHANGES WITH MARWAN, THERE WAS NO SPECIAL NEED TO MAKE A POINT ABOUT TELLING HIM OF THE RELEASE. IN ANY CASE, HE HAS NOT BEEN AVAILABLE THESE PAST TWO DAYS. AT SOME POINT, HOWEVER, I AM GOING TO HAVE TO MENTION IN PASSING THAT THEY ARE HERE AND THAT WE ARE MAKING PLANS TO SEND THEM BACK TO THE US. WHENEVER THE NEWS BREAKS PUBLICLY, FAHMY WILL START ASKING QUESTIONS. IF IT APPEARS THAT I HAVE HELD OUT ON HIM, HIS NOSE WILL BE OUT OF JOINT.

3. I PROPOSE TO HANDLE IT AS A ROUTINE MATTER AND, SHOULD HE AT ANY TIME QUERY ME, AFFIRM THAT THE TWO AMCITS ARE IN MY CUSTODY, BUT THAT I HAD THOUGHT
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AS A MATTER OF COURSE HE KNEW ABOUT THIS FROM

PRESIDENCY OFFICIALS.

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